

For Immediate Release

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Public Schools Nationwide Received New Books and Audio Programs

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New teacher guides, pupils' readers, and audio programs for P3 Kinyarwanda, mathematics, and English have been distributed to all 2,467 public primary schools across the country. The materials, which make use of effective techniques for developing literacy and numeracy skills, were developed by the Rwanda Education Board (REB) with the support of the United States Agency for International Development's Literacy, Language, and Learning (L3) Initiative, implemented by the US-based Education Development Center.

In 2014, schools nationwide began implementing the L3 program with print and audio materials for P1 and P2. The materials for P3 are a continuation of this program, and include teacher guides, Kinyarwanda and English story collections for teachers to read aloud as well as pupils' readers. Last year, schools received cell phones and portable speakers to play audio lessons, which engage students in active learning. Last month, the distribution of the audio programs and materials for P3 to schools was completed.

"2014 was a big year for education in Rwanda," said REB Director General Janvier Gasana. "Schools received more than 6 million books and audio material to support teaching and learning, and REB and partners completed the development of the new curriculum. Now, with P3 materials as well, it is imperative that education stakeholders at all levels—teachers, mentors, parents, sector and district officials, and community leaders—support the proper use of these materials to ensure their greatest impact on student learning nationwide."

The materials are in line with the national curriculum. Teacher guides detail how to conduct lessons using the new materials and techniques, and school-based mentors and trainers are training teachers in the use of the materials. Schools are asked to protect and properly use the new materials and technology, teaching students to care for their books which are taken home daily.

The program seeks the involvement of parents who can support the program—and their children's learning—by ensuring that children bring home and care properly for their books. All parents, regardless of their own level of education, should sit with their children and listen to them read for at least 15 minutes a day, supporting and praising their children's progress and effort. According to REB, children who read at home as well as at school become stronger readers than those who read only at school.

"We're heartened and proud of the success the L3 materials have had over the last year in P1 and P2," said Peter Malnak, USAID Mission Director. "We're very excited to build upon that success with the P3 materials; continuing to excite students about learning and equip teachers and parents with the tools to support that learning."

In 2016, the L3 program will introduce English and mathematics print and audio materials to schools for P4.

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The Literacy, Language, and Learning (L3) Initiative aims to strengthen teaching and learning so that children leave primary school with solid literacy and numeracy skills. L3 is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Education Development Center (EDC) in collaboration with partners and the Ministry of Education's Rwanda Education Board. Visit <http://l3.edc.org/>